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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

Report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with paragraph 27 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/45

GE.98-10936 (E)

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 1997/45 of 11 April 1997 entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region", the Commission on Human Rights reaffirmed that regional arrangements played a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and that they should reinforce universal human rights standards, as contained in international human rights instruments.

2. The Commission welcomed the regional workshops on various human rights issues which had been held in the Asian and Pacific region, including those in Manila (1990), Jakarta (1993), Seoul (1994), Kathmandu (1996) and Amman (1997).

3. The Commission endorsed the conclusions of the fifth workshop, including the recognition of the importance of step-by-step progress towards the establishment of a regional arrangement for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region, which must emerge from and be directed to the needs and priorities set by Governments of the region.

4. The Commission encouraged all Governments in the Asian and Pacific region to consider further the establishment of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into consideration the conclusions of the fifth workshop. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to establish an open-ended team, comprising representatives of interested Governments of the region and, in consultation with national institutions and non-governmental organizations, to ensure the effective preparation of the next workshop and to facilitate the development of regional arrangements.

5. The Secretary-General was also requested to give adequate attention to countries in the Asian and Pacific region by allocating more resources from existing United Nations funds to enable the countries of the region to benefit from all activities under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights.

6. The Commission encouraged States in the Asian and Pacific region to request assistance for such purposes as regional and subregional workshops, seminars and information exchanges designed to strengthen regional cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights. It also encouraged the ratification by all States in the region of international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It further encouraged all States and regional and subregional organizations to develop programmes for human rights education in the region.

7. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session a further report incorporating information on the progress achieved in implementing resolution 1997/45. This report is submitted in accordance with that request.

I. SIXTH WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

A. Mandate and justification for holding the workshop

8. The United Nations has consistently promoted the role of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have adopted numerous resolutions in this regard. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the fundamental role that regional and subregional arrangements could play in promoting and protecting human rights.

9. The Asian and Pacific region is the only United Nations defined region without a specific human rights treaty and without some form of region-wide mechanism directed towards the protection and promotion of human rights. The Secretary-General has repeatedly been requested by the General Assembly and the Commission to provide necessary assistance, through the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to Governments in the region for the establishment of such regional arrangements.

10. Pursuant to relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, organized in 1982 a seminar in Colombo, and more recently, five workshops for the Asian and Pacific region, in cooperation with the host Governments, in Manila in 1990, Jakarta in 1993, Seoul in 1994, Kathmandu in 1996 and Amman in 1997.

11. With the holding of the meetings mentioned above, a positive process has been established within the Asian and Pacific region. Building on discussion at earlier workshops, the fifth workshop in Amman identified specific steps as building-blocks, achieving consensus in the form of agreed workshop conclusions.

12. Endorsing the conclusions of the Amman Workshop, the Commission on Human Rights stressed that the regional cooperation programme could focus, inter alia, on requests from Governments, on strengthening the role of national human rights institutions in promoting the realization of all human rights, including, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights; realizing the right to development; developing methodologies for effective implementation of human rights education; elaborating guidelines for national action plans in the field of human rights; and developing strategies for cooperation on common problems.

13. Against this background the sixth workshop was organized in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 28 February to 2 March 1998, within the framework of the United Nations programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights and pursuant to Commission resolution 1997/45.

14. The aims of the workshop were to reach agreement concerning the framework of a draft regional technical cooperation programme, indicating its objectives and proposed activities, and to identify the next steps in facilitating the process of establishing a regional arrangement for the protection and promotion of human rights.

B. Preparatory process for the workshop

15. As requested by the Commission in resolution 1997/45, in accordance with the conclusions of the Amman Workshop, an open-ended working team comprising Geneva-based representatives of interested member States from the Asia-Pacific region held four meetings in Geneva (on 18 July, 30 October, 12 December 1997 and 12 February 1998) considering a variety of issues, including the provisional programme for the workshop, rules of procedure, draft framework of the regional technical cooperation programme, an expert's background paper prepared for the workshop, as well as participation by national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. This preparatory process facilitated discussions at the workshop.

16. In view of the role of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations in considering regional arrangements, as well as Commission resolution 1997/45 (op. para. 22), the provisional programme for the workshop and the draft framework of regional technical cooperation were distributed to these organizations through the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Asia-Pacific Human Rights NGOs Facilitating Team. These documents were also sent to those regional and international NGOs active in the region and in consultative status with ECOSOC, which were invited to the workshop by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

C. Participation

17. The Tehran Workshop enjoyed the widest participation in the series. Governments of the following 36 countries were represented: Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen. The Palestine National Authority was also represented at the workshop. National human rights commissions were represented by the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. Non-governmental organizations active in the region and local organizations participated in the workshop, including the Asia-Pacific Human Rights NGOs Facilitating Team, Amnesty International and the World Muslim Congress. In addition, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) attended the workshop as observers.

D. Proceedings

18. On 28 February 1998, the workshop was opened with statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The workshop then discussed in detail the proposed areas of regional cooperation.

19. The workshop was divided into three sessions, during which the following subjects were dealt with: Session I - Experiences and best practices in building national human rights capacity in the Asian and Pacific region; Session II - Prospects and next steps for the development of a regional arrangement in the Asian and Pacific region - Achievements, prospects and options for the future; Session III - Developing a regional technical cooperation programme in the Asian and Pacific region. In both the first and second sessions, discussion was preceded by an introductory statement by the expert.

20. Throughout the sessions, a number of interventions referred to the guiding principles agreed during previous workshops, in particular: the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights; the principle that any regional arrangement for Asia and the Pacific must emerge from within the region and should be based upon priorities and needs identified by the region; and the need to keep in mind the richness of cultural, historical and religious diversities within the region in considering regional arrangements.

21. Many interventions cautioned against hasty moves to establish a regional arrangement similar to those existing in other regions. According to these views, issues identified at the Second Workshop in Jakarta and other factors including the diversity of the region make it premature to establish a regional mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights to which all member States could subscribe. It was emphasized in several interventions that no currently existing regional arrangement could serve as an appropriate model for the Asian and Pacific region and that discussion on the form and framework of a regional arrangement was premature.

22. National practices and experiences were briefly described by a number of representatives, who shared positive initiatives recently taken in their own countries. These included the following:

- human rights education action plans;
- national plans of action in the field of human rights (including consideration of their preparation);
- legislative reform;
- establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions;
- signature and/or ratification of international human rights instruments;

- increased NGO participation in and contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights;

- technical cooperation projects;

- improved remedies for victims of human rights violations, including compensation for victims of torture.

23. There was unanimous agreement that technical cooperation aimed at national capacity building should be the foundation for any further move towards the establishment of a regional human rights arrangement and that regional cooperation is an essential prerequisite for such progress. A number of member States emphasized the importance of the right to development in this regard. It was emphasized that progress towards a regional arrangement could only be made at a pace determined within the region. Views differed as to the promotion of subregional arrangements in general.

24. There was consensus on the central role which had been and would be played by the annual intergovernmental workshop, with the assistance of the open-ended team in Geneva. It was agreed there was no need to create an additional consultative mechanism for considering or facilitating the establishment of regional arrangements. The annual workshop, therefore, should be the key forum for discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation, including through the proposed technical cooperation programme. In this connection, suggestions were made that future annual workshops should include discussions of thematic issues, such as human rights education and the right to development, as a means of facilitating practical progress in regional cooperation.

25. The exchange of views concerning the strengthening of national human rights capacities by sharing of expertise, experiences and best practices was followed by a detailed review, at the third session, of preferred approaches for regional cooperation. Discussion focused on the objectives, activities, priorities and resources for regional technical cooperation. A number of suggestions were made concerning the framework document prepared and presented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

26. The workshop adopted a framework of regional technical cooperation programme in the Asian and Pacific region, aimed at strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights as a means of facilitating possible regional arrangements. The following four areas of activity were identified in this framework: national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national capacities; human rights education; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights. The framework document is attached to this report (annex II).

E. Workshop conclusions

27. Following informal consultations and discussions in the plenary session, the sixth workshop arrived at agreed conclusions on 2 March 1998. The text of the conclusions is attached to this report (annex I).

II. THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

28. The Secretary-General continues to pay particular attention to ensuring that the countries of the Asian and Pacific region benefit from all the activities under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, funded either through the regular budget or the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

29. During 1997, a large number of activities were implemented within the framework of the technical cooperation programme and projects in Bhutan, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine and Papua New Guinea. The multi-component programme and projects in Cambodia, Mongolia and Palestine were carried out or coordinated by the respective field offices or a national professional officer. In addition, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provided advisory services and participated in workshops considering the establishment of a national human rights institution in Bangladesh.

30. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the Secretary-General's report on advisory services in the field of human rights, including the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (E/CN.4/1998/92), which contains detailed information regarding the activities undertaken in 1997 in the context of the United Nations programme of technical cooperation.

III. ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

31. The Second Regional Workshop of Asia-Pacific National Human Rights Institutions was held in New Delhi, India, from 10 to 12 September 1997. The objectives of the workshop were to promote cooperation among and strengthening of national human rights institutions in the Asia-Pacific region, by facilitating consideration of issues of common concern, encouraging joint activity on issues of mutual interest, and promoting the development of joint training programmes and staff exchanges. The workshop also provided a forum to encourage and assist those States in the process of establishing national institutions or which have taken concrete steps to initiate this process through, inter alia, the provision of practical assistance and support. In addition to the national human rights commissions of Australia, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Philippines and Sri Lanka, 14 Governments in the region, national human rights institutions of other regions and non-governmental human rights organizations participated in the meeting. The workshop adopted a concluding statement which sets out a commitment to joint action in many areas. The report of this workshop is available at the Secretariat for consultation.

IV. STATUS OF ADHERENCE BY STATES IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION TO THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (as at 23 February 1998)

32. The international human rights instruments of the United Nations which establish treaty bodies to monitor their implementation are:

(1) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which is monitored by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(2) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which is monitored by the Human Rights Committee;

(3) the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OPT1), which is supervised by the Human Rights Committee;

(4) the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (OPT2);

(5) the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD);

(6) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which is monitored by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW);

(7) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment which is monitored by the Committee against Torture (CAT);

(8) the Convention on the Rights of the Child which is monitored by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC);

(9) the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC), which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1990 and will enter into force when at least 20 States have accepted it.

The following listing of States Members of the United Nations shows which States are a party (indicated by the year of adherence or, for the Migrant Workers' Convention, the year of acceptance) or signatory (indicated by an "s") to the various United Nations human rights instruments listed. As at 23 February 1998, 185 Member States and 8 non-Member States were party to one or more of these instruments.

State	ICESCR	ICCPR	OPT1	OPT2	CERD	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	MWC
Afghanistan	1983	1983	-	-	1983	s	1987	1994	-
Australia	1975	1980	1991	1990	1975*	1983	1989*	1990	-
Bahrain	-	-	-	-	1990	-	-	1992	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	1979	1984	-	1990	-
Bhutan	-	-	-	-	s	1981	-	1990	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1995	-
Cambodia	1992	1992	-	-	1983	1992	1992	1992	-
China	s	-	-	-	1981	1980	1988	1992	-
Cyprus	1969	1969	1992	-	1967*	1985	1991*	1991	-
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1981	1981	-	-	-	-	-	1990	-
Fiji	-	-	-	-	1973	1995	-	1993	-
India	1979	1979	-	-	1968	1993	s	1992	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	1984	s	1990	-
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	1975	1975	-	-	1968	-	-	1994	-
Iraq	1971	1971	-	-	1970	1986	-	1994	-
Japan	1979	1979	-	-	1995	1985	-	1994	-
Jordan	1975	1975	-	-	1974	1992	1991	1991	-
Kuwait	1996	1996	-	-	1968	1994	1996	1991	-
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-	-	-	-	1974	1981	-	1991	-
Lebanon	1972	1972	-	-	1971	1997	-	1991	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	-	-	1995	-	1995	-
Maldives	-	-	-	-	1984	1993	-	1991	-
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1993	-
Mongolia	1974	1974	1991	-	1969	1981	-	1990	-
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	1997	-	1991	-
Nepal	1991	1991	1991	-	1971	1991	1991	1990	-
New Zealand	1978	1978	1989	1990	1972	1985	1989*	1993	-
Oman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1996	-
Pakistan	-	-	-	-	1966	1996	-	1990	-
Palau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1995	-
Papua New Guinea	-	-	-	-	1982	1995	-	1993	-
Philippines	1974	1986	1989	-	1967	1981	1986	1990	1995
Qatar	-	-	-	-	1976	-	-	1995	-

State	ICESCR	ICCPR	OPT1	OPT2	CERD	CEDAW	CAT	CRC	MWC
Republic of Korea	1990	1990	1990	-	1978	1984	1995	1991	-
Samoa	-	-	-	-	-	1992	-	1994	-
Saudi Arabia	-	-	-	-	1997	-	1997	1996	-
Solomon Islands	1982	-	-	-	1982	-	-	1995	-
Sri Lanka	1980	1980	1997	-	1982	1981	1994	1991	1996
Syrian Arab Republic	1969	1969	-	-	1969	-	-	1993	-
Thailand	-	1996	-	-	-	1985	-	1992	-
United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	-	1974	-	-	1997	-
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	-	1995	-	1993	-
Viet Nam	1982	1982	-	-	1982	1982	-	1990	-
Yemen	1987	1987	-	-	1972	1984	1991	1991	-
Total number of States Parties	137	140	93	31	150	161	104	191	9

* Indicates that the State party has recognized the competence to receive and process individual communications of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination under article 14 of the Convention (a total of 25 States parties) or of the Committee Against Torture (a total of 39 States parties).

ANNEX I

SIXTH WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION
(28 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 1998)

TEHRAN WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

The Tehran Workshop, meeting from 28 February to 2 March 1998, on the occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reaffirms the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights in a region proud of its rich cultures, religions and diversities;

Meeting 30 years after the First World Conference on Human Rights and five years after the Second World Conference, the workshop also reaffirms its commitment to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

Taking note of the previous workshops held in Manila, Jakarta and Seoul, moving ahead on the basis of consensus reached at Kathmandu and Amman, and guided by a step-by-step and building-blocks approach, the workshop renews its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region;

Appreciative of the call to practical action by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Mary Robinson, and the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, in their opening addresses to the workshop; and

Committed to developing and strengthening national capacities, in accordance with national conditions, for the promotion and protection of human rights through regional cooperation and the sharing of experiences, the workshop hereby adopts a Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific to develop, inter alia:

- National plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national capacities;

- Human rights education;

- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and

- Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;

This Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation, focusing on practical steps to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, marks the workshop's contribution to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

The Tehran Workshop recognizes that strengthening national human rights capacities is the strongest foundation for effective and enduring regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights;

Looking to the future, the Tehran Workshop renews its commitment to ensure that the annual meeting remains the key regional forum to review progress in strengthening national human rights capacities, thus ensuring regional cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights.

2 March 1998

ANNEX II

FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME
IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

I. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Region: Asia and the Pacific

Project Title: Strengthening of National Capacities for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific region as a means of facilitating regional cooperation on human rights and possible regional arrangements

Initial Duration: 3 years

Implementing Agency: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Total estimated budget: $728,500 (including 13 per cent programme support costs)

Source(s) of funding:
- Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation
- Other extra budgetary funds
- In-kind contributions by host countries of programme activities

II. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Through previous workshops a consensus has been reached on the principles and "step-by-step", "building-blocks" approach involving extensive consultation among Governments of the region, concerning the possible establishment of regional arrangements. It was also agreed that regional arrangements must emerge from and be directed to the needs and priorities set by Governments of the region, with roles, functions, tasks, outcomes and achievements determined by consensus.

In particular, the Amman Workshop concluded that the sharing of information, the establishment of confidence-building measures and the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights are crucial in the step-by-step process towards establishing regional human rights arrangements. The workshop also strongly recommended that a regional technical cooperation programme be designed and implemented as a matter of urgent priority.

This document is intended to provide a framework for this regional technical cooperation programme, as discussed at the sixth Asia-Pacific Workshop in Tehran. The areas of cooperation proposed in this document draw on the Amman Workshop conclusions as well as on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/45.

The annual intergovernmental workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region is the key forum for discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation, including through the technical cooperation programme outlined below. A progress report on technical cooperation activities should be made available by the Secretariat to future workshops so that Member States can assess the progress made in implementing the programme and provide further direction.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

The programme will contribute to the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region and be a means of facilitating further consideration of regional cooperation on human rights, including possible regional arrangements.

IV. AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Strengthening of National Capacities ($163,800)

Objective:

National capacities will be strengthened in order to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing practices and practical experiences in connection with national plans of action for human rights;

Activity (b): * Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and assistance at the request of Member States for the development of any such national action plans, including the holding, as appropriate, of national workshops to prepare review/finalize/launch such national action plans and related activities aimed at strengthening national capacities;

Activity (c): Holding of a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs active in this area, to share best practices concerning national action plans.

2. Human Rights Education ($157,000)

Objective:

National capacities will be strengthened to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action and other activities for human rights education.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing national plans of action and specific programmes or activities for human rights education;

Activity (b): * Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and assistance at the request of Member States for the development of national capacities for human rights education, including the holding, as appropriate, of workshops to consider such activities;

Activity (c): Holding a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs active in this area, to share best practices concerning such national action plans and related activities;

3. **National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights ($212,200)**

Objective:

Capacities of national human rights institutions (or potential capacities of those in the process of being established) will be strengthened - including their capacity to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing practices and practical experiences in connection with national human rights institutions;

Activity (b): * Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and assistance requested by Member States for the development/strengthening of any such institution;

Activity (c): Holding in cooperation with national institutions, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Institutions and Member States regional and subregional workshops on the role and functions of national institutions in the promotion and protection of all human rights including, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights.

4. **Strategies for the Realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ($195,500)**

Objective:

Obstacles to the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights will be identified in the regional context and national and regional capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights will be strengthened.

Activity: Holding of a regional workshop** with governments, and/or national workshops* at the request of Member States, with national economic planning authorities and with the participation of international development and financial institutions as well as development cooperation experts. This (these) workshop(s) will identify obstacles to the realization of those rights in the Asia-Pacific region and propose relevant action to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights.

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* Activities at the national level are not costed.

** Venues of regional workshops will be determined in consultation with Member States.